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Commentaries on the Criminal Law. By Joel Prentiss Bishop. Vol. I. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1856. pp. 752.

The plan of this book is strictly that of a commentary, as distinguished from a digest. The object being to present the principles of the criminal law, the great aim of Mr. Bishop has been to give principles and reasons, while at the same time the citation of cases has not been neglected, as the foot-notes most abundantly testify. While enunciating principles of law, Mr. Bishop does not attempt to speculate to any extent upon what the law should be, but simply confines himself to stating what it is. An effort has been made to adapt this book to various classes of readers: the practitioner, the student, the magistrate and the statesman. A book professing to do so much cannot be fairly reviewed without a deliberate perusal, and we are unwilling to hazard an opinion which is to guide our readers, without more careful and extended study than we have yet been able to devote to a production which has the merit of being prepared by a well-known and much-appreciated legal writer. We may hereafter return to a fuller consideration of Mr. Bishop's labors, after a more attentive perusal.

A COLLECTION OF OVERRULED, DENIED, AND DOUBTED DECISIONS AND DICTA, BOTH AMERICAN AND ENGLISH. By SIMON GREENLEAF, LL.D., Professor at Law at Harvard University. Fourth Edition, Revised and Enlarged. By John Townshend, Counsellor at Law. New York: John S. Voorhies, Law Bookseller and Publisher, No. 20 Nassau street, 1856.

A notice of a work so well known as the "Overruled Cases" seems to be needless. The value of such collections is amply attested by the number of editions called for and by the daily experience of every practising lawyer. A ready means of ascertaining whether any given case has been doubted or overruled, is most important, and no more convenient or satisfactory work has yet been given to the Bar than Mr. Townshend's edition of a recognized book. The addition of fifteen hundred cases in itself shows the absolute necessity of the compilation.